April 2, 2001   LB 827

SENATOR ROBAK: Okay.   What would be their benefit from doing
that then as opposed to doing it themselves?

SENATOR BROMM: Well, they're, number one in my opinion anyway,
they're not statutorily authorized to enter into it themselves;
and, secondly, it would involve an investment in technology that
I think would be significant, and it's...this way they can
realize some benefit out of this resource, which has been built
and paid for by them and which is sitting there in an unused
capacity.   It may allow it to become used.   They can recover the
cost that they expended in building the fiber and, if there is a
margin above that, they can keep half the money.   So I think it
gives them some possible advantages that they do not have now.
Because right now I don't think they can do anything with it,
really.

SENATOR ROBAK: With the bill as written previously as...before
your amendment.

SENATOR BROMM: Well, before this legislation.

SENATOR ROBAK: Before this legislation.   Okay, thank you,
Senator Bromm. I think it's a weak compromise at best, but I
don't think I'll vote for the...the bill. I don't know how I'll
vote on the amendment at this time, but thank you for your
explanation. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Robak.   We're open for
discussion on AM1303, the Bromm amendment to LB 827.   Further
discussion? Seeing none, Senator Bromm, do you wish to close?

SENATOR BROMM: Well, very, very briefly, Senator Cudaback.
I...I   know   that this represents a policy change and a
clarification.   I think it's absolutely needed.   Been a lot
of...a lot of discussion, a lot of work, and hopefully...I know
that...that this will not be the last time we revisit the area
of telecommunications.   Things are happening so fast.   And in a
year or two I'm sure we're going to be seeing an expansion of
wireless and satellite alternatives that may or may not cause us
to be back here.   But I...I just hope that this in some way